

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /091 W

-----031216Z 108024 /43

R 031043Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4295

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1507

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU

SUBJECT: SUDAN CONCERN AT USG ATTITUDE IN KHARTOUM/ADDIS
CONFRONTATION

1. SUMMARY: MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG RECOGNIZES
DESIRABILITY USG PATIENCE IN DEALING WITH ETHIOPIA BUT
WOULD BE CONCERNED WERE THIS ATTITUDE TO BE LARGELY
DICTATED BY ANY USG ASSESSMENT DOWNGRADING SOVIET
THREAT IN AREA. DESPITE MY PROBINGS, DENG OFFIERED
NO SPECIFICS BUT SEEMED INCREASINGLY CONCERNED
RE IMPLICATIONS FOR SUDAN OF THE SOVIET PRESENCE
ETHIOPIA. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER DISCUSSING WITH ME MAY 2 SUBSTANCE RECENT
YUGOSLAV AND TANZANIAN MESSAGES TO NIMEIRI RE
SUDAN/ETHIOPIAN SITUATION, MINSTATE FONAFFS DENG
COMMENTED GENERALLY ON AREA SITUATION. DENG CLAIMED
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THREAT FROM ETHIOPIA INCREASING BUT ACCEPTED
MY COMMENT THAT MILITARY INVASION OF EITHER COUNTRY BY
THE OTHER HARDLY REPRESENTED REALISTIC POSSIBILITY.
DENG NEVERTHELESS ADHERED TO VIEW THAT RECENT EVENTS
SHOWED SOVIETS GAINING IN AFRICA. USG IN HIS VIEW
SHOULD DO MORE TO COUNTER THIS SITUATION.

3. I COUNTERED THAT SOVIETS HAD LOST
IN EGYPT AND SUDAN; THAT MOST LIKELY THREAT TO SUDAN
SEEMED POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED ANSAR/NATIONAL FRONT
SUBVERSION AND THAT SUDAN GOVT NO DOUBT FULLY
ALYCTNWHIS RISK AND WELL ABLE COPE. DENG AGAIN
AGREED. HOWEVER, HE REITERATED THAT SOME NEW SURPRISE
FROM SUDAN'S ENEMIES WAS EVER-PRESENT POSSIBILITY. HE
WONDERED WHETHER USG WAS EQUALLY CONCERNED WITH
IMPLICATIONSNHAP SUCH SERIOUS NEW DISTURBANCES IN SUDAN
AS WITH GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE WE HAD JUST BEEN
DISCUSSING (SEPTTEL, NOTAL). EPMG MIGHT ITSELF NOT
WISH EXACERBATE SUDAN/ETHIOPIA TENSIONS BUT "THEIR
ALLIES" MIGHT NEVERTHELESS PUSH THEM IN THIS
DIRECTION.

4. DENG ADMITTED THERE NO DOUBT REALISTIC RELUC-
TANCE ON OUR PART GET INVOLVED IN REGIONAL ISSUES WHICH
COULD ESCALATE TO BIG-POWER CONFRONTATION, BUT

WONDERED WHETHER THIS ATTITUDE MIGHT NOT LEAD US TO
DISCOUNT THREAT WHICH SUDAN GOVT FELT IT FACED. REPLIED
PERSONALLY I DID NOT BELIEVE WE VIEWED SUDAN/ETHIOPIA
CONFRONTATION PRIMARILY IN SUPER-POWER TERMS. WE
REGRETTEED ACTIONS EPMG HAD RECENTLY TAKEN AGAINMTTNS BUT
HOPED TO MAINTAIN SOME MINIMAL POSITION IN ETHIOPIA
AGAINST BETTER DAYS WHICH HOPEFULLY MIGHT LIE AHEAD.
OUR ATTITUDE THUS ONE OF PATIENCE IN DEALING WITH
ETHIOPIAN REGIME RATHER THAN, AS DENG HAD IMPLIED,
DESIRE AVOID PROVOKING MOSCOW.
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5. COMMENT: CUSTOMARY INDIRECT AND ELLIPTICAL NATURE
DENG'S PRESENTATION (PART OF THE TIME WHEN HE USED
"WE", IT DEVELOPED HE WAS SPEAKING OF USG NOT SUDAN)
MAKE IT DIFFICULT REPRODUCE HIS THOUGHTS WITHOUT OVER-
EMPHASIZING THEM. HAVING SAID THIS, IT SEEMS PRETTY
CLEAR THAT DENG FEELS THAT WHEREAS USG POLICY OF
PATIENCE TOWARDS ETHIOPIA WOULD BE CORRECT,
ONE WHICH MIGHT BE LARGELY DICTATED BY ASSESSMENT THAT
SOVIET ACTIONS IN AREA REPRESENT NO THREAT TO OUR
FRIENDS WOULD BE AN ERROR. I SOUGHT REASSURE HIM
ON LATTER POINT BUT NOTED USG POSITION THAT AFRICAN
PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED BY AFRICANS AND THAT THIS
SEEMED TO BE TAKING PLACE, FOR EXAMPLE, IN ZAIRE.
DENG DID NOT DISAGREE. BREWER

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
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